

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 202395
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:HDCOLLUMS:CSR
APPROVED BY T:LBENSON
EUR/SE:RCEWING
S/S-O:JTHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202395

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MARR, MASS, TU

SUBJECT: ELEKDAG VISIT: MEETING WITH UNDERSECRETARY
BENSON

1. TURKISH MFA SECGEN ELEKDAG CALLED ON UNDERSECRETARY
FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE BENSON AUGUST 9 FOR DISCUSSION OF
MILITARY SUPPLY AND RELATED ISSUES. ALSO PRESENT AT
MEETING WERE AMBASSADOR ESENBEL AND MFA OFFICIAL KUSTAOGLU.

2. IN OPENING MEETING UNDERSECRETARY BENSON SAID US WAS
ANXIOUS IN POST-EMBARGO REPEAL PERIOD TO WORK CLOSELY WITH
GOT ON NATO QUESTIONS, MILITARY SUPPLY, TRAINING, ARMS
TRANSFERS, AND RELATED MATTERS. AFTER DISCUSSION ON RE-
OPENING OF US INSTALLATIONS IN TURKEY, DURING WHICH ELEKDAG
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REITERATED MAIN POINTS COVERED IN AUGUST 8 MEETING WITH
NIMETZ (SEPTTEL), ELEKDAG RAISED QUESTION OF MAP EQUIPMENT
IN PIPELINE WHICH WOULD BE RELEASED ONCE LIFTING OF EMBARGO
GOES INTO EFFECT. HE NOTED THAT GOT HAD GIVEN JUSMMAT
LIST OF ADDITIONAL MATERIAL IT WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE.

3. BENSON NOTED THAT MUCH OF EQUIPMENT IN PIPELINE WAS

READY FOR DELIVERY AS SOON AS EMBARGO IS LIFTED. STATE AND DOD WOULD BE PLEASED TO REVIEW LIST OF ITEMS GOT BELIEVES IT NEEDS AND WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE TURKISH TEAM

IN WASHINGTON AT AN EARLY DATE TO DISCUSS VARIOUS MILITARY SUPPLY QUESTIONS AND PRIORITIES.

4. REFERRING TO DISCUSSIONS DURING DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S VISIT TO ANKARA EARLIER THIS YEAR, ELEKDAG INQUIRED INTO POSSIBILITIES OF RE-ESTABLISHING MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM (IMET) FOR TURKEY, STRESSING POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF REVIVING GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AND TURKISH MILITARY PERSONNEL. BENSON SAID WE WOULD EXPLORE EVERY POSSIBILITY TO SEE IF THERE MIGHT BE IMET FUNDS FOR RE-INSTITUTING TURKISH TRAINING PROGRAM. HOWEVER, THERE WAS GROWING RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF CONGRESS AS MATTER OF GENERAL PRINCIPLE TO CONTINUE GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE (MAP).

5. ELEKDAG RAISED POSSIBILITY OF CO-PRODUCTION SCHEMES, AS DISCUSSED BY PRIMIN ECEVIT WITH SECDEF BROWN DURING JUNE VISIT TO WASHINGTON. ELEKDAG SAID TURKS ENVISIONED MOVING TOWARD LIGHTER, MOBILE DEFENSE FORCE, ESPECIALLY ON EASTERN FRONT WITH SOVIET UNION, AND WANTED TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF CO-PRODUCTION OF LESS-SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT, E.G. ANTI-TANK WEAPONS. HE ALSO POINTED OUT ADVAN-
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TAGE FOR TURKISH ECONOMY OF PRODUCING WHATEVER WEAPONS IT COULD DOMESTICALLY. BENSON INDICATED US WAS PREPARED TO SEND TEAM OF DOD INDUSTRIAL EXPERTS TO ANKARA AT EARLY DATE TO EXPLORE FEASIBLE POSSIBILITIES. HOWEVER, IMPLEMENTATION OF CO-PRODUCTION SCHEME WOULD HAVE TO EVOLVE GRADUALLY.

6. IN CLOSING, ELEKDAG INVITED BENSON TO VISIT TURKEY AT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE. BENSON GLADLY ACCEPTED, INDICATING DATE COULD BE WORKED OUT LATER. VANCE

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S/S-O: M. MCCALLIE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202395

EXDIS MILITARY HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL RPT STATE 202395 SENT ACTION ANKARA INFO ATHENS NICOSIA
USNATO AUG 10, 1978

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202395

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